

**OTAY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT
POLICY COMMITTEE**

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 13, 2004

TO: Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Otay River Watershed Management Plan Goals and Objectives

SUMMARY:

Overview

The Working Group and the Project Team through a series of meetings and discussions developed the draft Otay River Watershed Management Plan (ORWMP) Goals and Objectives (Attachment A). The Goals and Objectives provide the framework of the ORWMP. They are intended to be consistent with the applicable local General Plans, local resource plans and programs, the Otay River Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), and the Municipal Storm Water Permit (San Diego Region National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] General Permit Order No. 2001-01). The ORWMP is a programmatic advisory document and not a regulatory document, which provides the jurisdictions with the option to adopt recommended policies or consider them in future updates to their general plans and resource plans and programs.

It is anticipated that the Goals and Objectives will evolve and be modified by the consultant as new data is analyzed and the draft ORWMP is further reviewed by the public, Working Group, Project Team and Executive Committee, and Policy Committee. Additionally, the Working Group and Project Team recognize that the ORWMP is a "living document," which can be updated periodically to consider changes in watershed conditions, the regulatory environment, and to incorporate the lessons learned from monitoring and evaluation.

On September 1, 2004, the Working Group-Project Team approved, by consensus, the attached draft ORWMP Goals and Objectives as the starting point for the preparation of the draft ORWMP.

Executive Committee Recommendation

Accept the attached draft Working Group ORWMP Goals and Objectives as the starting point for the preparation of the draft ORWMP.

Background

Watershed Management Plans typically consist of the following elements:

1. Characterization of the watershed's natural resources, uses, and problems;
2. Identification of goals and objectives to meet natural resource and land use needs;
3. Assessment and prioritization of problems and development of implementation strategies to address them;
4. Development of monitoring strategies and protocols for evaluating the effectiveness of implemented strategies and updating of the Watershed Management Plan, as necessary.

While developing element 2, the goals and objectives, the Working Group and Project Team reviewed the draft Watershed Assessment (Attachment B) prepared by Aspen relating to element 1 above and identified concerns about water quality, protection of natural resource systems, land use and the economy.

Many multi-jurisdictional plans, programs, and permits are in development or are being implemented in the watershed that seek to achieve a balance of land uses while protecting, enhancing, and restoring key natural resources. The ORWMP offers a critical tool that can build upon and integrate major efforts benefiting multiple uses in this watershed, such as County and Cities' General Plans, the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), the Otay Valley Regional Park, the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and the Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve. As we move forward in the planning process, elements 3 and 4 as described above will be provided to the Working Group and Executive and Policy Committees for review, discussion and approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A - [Draft ORWMP Goals and Objectives](#)
- Attachment B - [Draft Watershed Assessment](#)

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